

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451

ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS TOKYO 2866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: BATTERY R&D TEAM VISIT

REF: 1. TOKYO 2367 2. STATE 42941

1. MITI WAS INFORMED THAT US BATTERY TEAM VISIT TO JAPAN HAS BEEN POSTPONED AS STATED IN REF. 2. MITI INVITES TEAM TO RESCHEDULE AND AGREES THAT R&D WORK PERFORMED IN INDUSTRY THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE UNDER THE ENERGY R&D EXCHANGE AGREEMENT NEEDS BE CAREFULLY ASSESSED. MITI SUGGESTS VISIT BE RESCHEDULED BEFORE JULY 1, 1975. IF TEAM DOES NOT COME BEFORE JULY, IT MAY BE SEPT. BECAUSE JULY AND AUGUST ARE INCONVENIENT TIMES IN GOJ OFFICIAL WORK YEAR.

2. AT TIME OF POSTPONEMENT MITI HAD SCHEDULED VISITS AT MITI HEADQUARTERS, ELECTRIC MACHINERY LAB AT MURAIYAMA, JAPAN STORAGE BATTERY CO., YUASA BATTERY CO., MATSUSHITA CENTRAL RESEARCH LAB, AND THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT OSAKA. THE ABOVE PRIVATE LABS HAVE BATTERY CONTRACT WORK WITH MITI AND ARE THE LIKELY ORGANIZATIONS DOING WORK THAT WOULD BE EXCHANGED UNDER AGREEMENT WITH MITI. MITI COULD NOT RPT NOT ARRANGE OFFICIAL VISITS AT HITACHI, TOSHIBA, FUJI OR THE UNIVERSITY LABORATORIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING FOR AN EXCHANGE UNDER THE ENERGY R&D AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, MITI BELIEVES AND ERDA REP HAS CONFIRMED THAT TEAM WOULD BE WELCOMED AT THESE LATTER LABS AS PART OF AN UNOFFICIAL GENERAL INFORMATION TOUR OF BATTERY R&D. ACCORDING TO MITI, EXCHANGES WITH

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THESE LABS WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH ORGANIZATIONS

OTHER THAN MITI, AND ERDA REP IS PCEPARED TO DO SO.

3. MITI OFFICERS, MR. KENICHI ITO, SENIOR OFFICER FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ALSO IN CHARGE OF BATTERIES AND MR. MASUMI SATO, CHIEF R&D OFFICER ARE APPARENTLY IN CHARGE OF GROUND WORK FOR IMPLEMENTING BATTERY EXCHANGE. ALTHOUGH MITI NOT YET DEFINITELY DECIDED, ITO WILL PROBABLY BE JAVANESE CONTACT POINT IF BATTERY EXCHANGE REALIZED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. BASED ON EMBOFF'U DISCUSSION WITH SATO AND ITO BATTERY EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE FACILITATED BY THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

A. TEAM VISIT BE RESCHEDULED BEFORE JULY 1, 1975.O

B. US ERDA OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES DEFINE THE PROJECTS, FACILITIES AND TYPES OF INFO PROPOSED FOR THE EXCHANGEM MITI WOULD DO SAME FOR ITS PROJECTS AS A START FOR TYPES OF INFO EXCHANGE MITI HAS SUGGESTED TESTING METHOD STANDARDIZATION AND FOR TYPES OF PROJECTS, FROM THE USN LOAD LEVELING, AND FROM JAVAN, ELECTRIC CAR.

C. US AND MITI DEFINE RESPECTIVE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCHANGE AND AS CONTACT POINTS AND ALSO DEFINE CHANNELS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

5. COMMENT. UNIVERSITY BATTERY WORK IS BEING FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) AND CURRENT MITI THINKING IS THAT A SEPARATE ARRANGEMENT WITH MOE WOULD BE NECESSARY. MITI POSITION MAY BE ONE OF INERTIA AND POSSIBLE SINGLE EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT WITH MITI AND MOE COULD BE MADE BECAUSE MITI SAYS IT HAS NEVER BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH MOE. AS MENTIONED IN REF. 2, EXCHANGE OF R&D AT PRIVATE COMPANY BUT FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT NEEDS CAREFUL STUDY. AT PRIVATE COMPANIES WITH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, SATO ANTICIPATES POSSIBLE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN SEPARATING GOVERNMENT WORK FROM PRIVATE WORK. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORK AT PRIVATE BATTERY FIRMS COULD BE INCLUDED IN EXCHANGE.
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